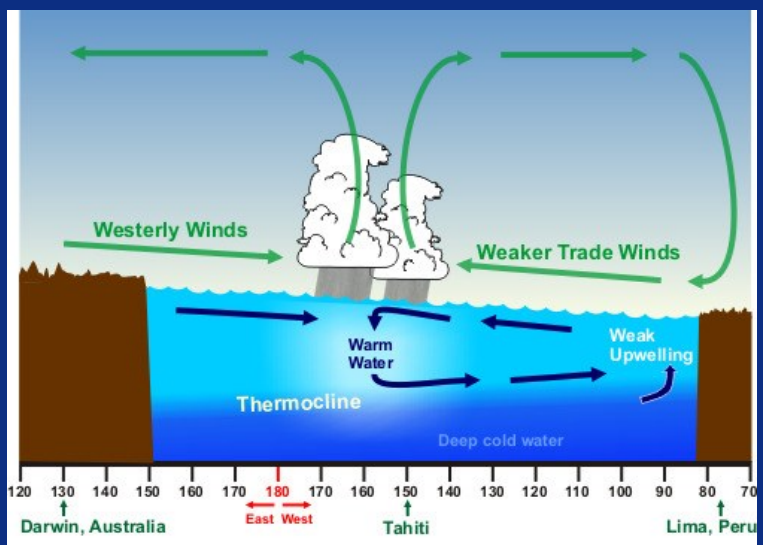
Because every drop counts!

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023 - ISSUE 5

Welcome El Niño!



Typically in the equatorial Pacific, winds blow from east-to-west - or from South America towards Asia. These are called Trade Winds. As warm sea-surface temperatures (SST) are carried towards Asia, they are replaced by cooler, deeper water (upwelling). When Trade Winds weaken and are overtaken by stronger westerly winds, the upwelling process is not as strong, and therefore, SST are warmer than normal. This is known as El Niño!

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that an El Niño patter was becoming increasingly likely with an El Niño Watch officially being issued by the Climate Predication Center. Well as of June 8th, El Niño conditions are officially present and this is expected to strengthen as we head into the 2023—2024 winter season.

El Niño refers to warmer than normal sea-surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific. These warmer waters cause the Pacific jet stream to move farther south, amplifying storm tracks, and leading to wetter than normal periods for the U.S. Gulf Coast and Southeast.

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Condition Monitoring

What are conditions like in your area? Is it drier than normal or wetter than normal? Did you know you can report this?? CoCoRaHS offers a Condition Monitoring Report that allows you to tell us exactly what moisture values are like in your area and how they differ from normal! The best part is this is directly used in the drought process!

Interested in learning more? Check out this guide to Condition Monitoring!

Happy Birthday, CoCoRaHS!

CoCoRaHS is turning 25 soon! The network officially began on June 17, 1998 in response to a devastating flash flood in Fort Collins, Colorado in July 1997. This was a highly localized flood where more than 13 inches of rain fell on the west side of town, but only five miles to the east, only light rain was received. This very localized event was not reported and claimed the lives of 5 people. This highlighted the need for a high density and accurate precipitation network—aka CoCoRaHS!

It started with only a handful of people in Colorado, and now, nearly 25 years later, it's grown to include over 25,000 active observers across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Bahamas! Thanks to YOU for helping us get this far, and here's to 25 more!

Highest CoCoRaHS Precipitation Totals So Far This Year

We are about halfway through the year, and with over 50,000 reports submitted so far in 2023, you all have been busy! Let's take a look at the highest precipitation totals from CoCoRaHS stations so far this year across Middle Tennessee:

CoCoRaHS Station	Liquid Precipitation Total	CoCoRaHS Station	Liquid Precipitation Total
TN-WR-10	31.42"	TN-LS-5	29.65"
TN-ML-6	30.86"	TN-BF-5	29.45"
TN-DC-24	30.48"	TN-WY-25	29.43"
TN-MY-8	30.05"	TN-LR-26	29.32"
TN-LR-27	29.88"	TN-PM-45	29.08"

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Meet Dave!

Dave is a long-time Wilson County CoCoRaHS observer who is currently reporting in the Mount Juliet area. After retiring, Dave felt the need to volunteer, and after learning about CoCoRaHS, he signed up in 2007! One of Dave's favorite things about CoCoRaHS is knowing that he is contributing to ground truth precipitation via a program that is partnered with the National Weather Service. He has also taken pleasure in the gradual refinement of the CoCoRaHS website, resulting in improved interactives, accuracy, improved clarity of procedures, and ease of use over the past decade and more. One of Dave's most rewarding experiences as a CoCoRaHS observer was helping a gentleman who had suffered a stroke and who needed something to do to feel worthy in his recovery. Dave bought him a rain gauge, set it up, and he has been reporting ever since. Dave has lived through several memorable weather events as a CoCoRaHS observer, including the May 2010 floods and the March 2020 tornadoes.

I would love to recognize and highlight YOU in these newsletters! If you're interested, tell me about yourself via this form.

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